

# 2

## The Discontented Tree

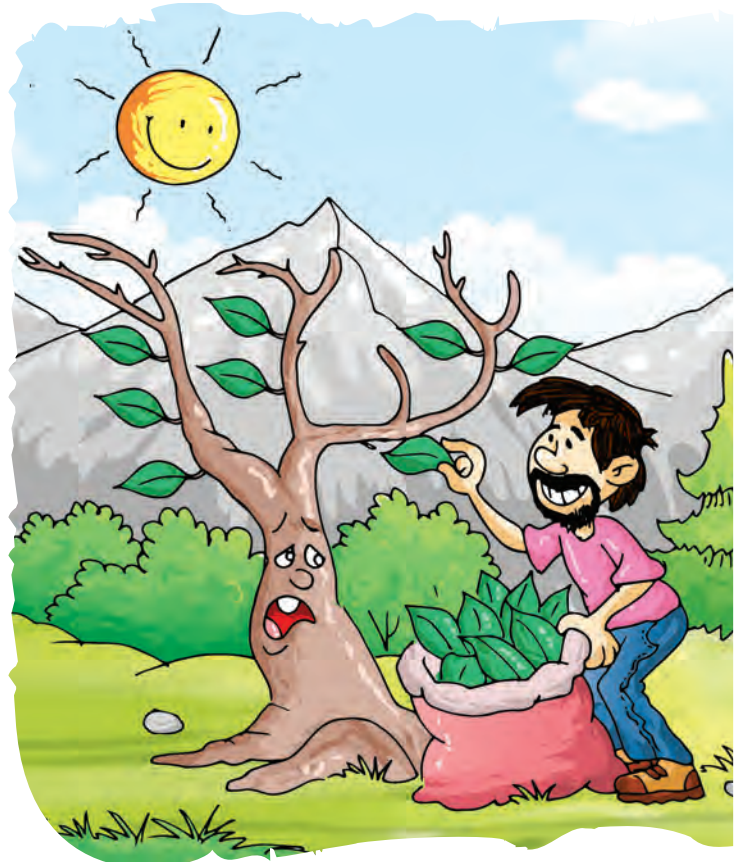


Man is always restless. When his one wish is fulfilled, he longs for something other. It is his basic nature to never be satisfied with whatever he has. Man's desires are endless, so he is never satisfied. Read this story where a tree is always **discontented** with whatever it has, and finally learns a lesson from his bitter taste of desires.

Once upon a time, a little tree stood in the **midst** of a forest. Instead of plain leaves, it was covered with fine, sharp needle-like leaves. They pricked the fingers of anyone who came to pluck them. One day the little tree said to himself in a **complaining** manner, 'All of my friends have such beautiful leaves, but I have only **pricking** leaves. No one comes near me. All the people ignore me and pass by. If I could have my wish fulfilled, I would have leaves of pure gold.'

When the night came, the little tree fell asleep. On awaking early in the morning, it was surprised to see itself **clad** in leaves of shining gold! What a **splendid appearance** it made! How it shone in the Sun! The little tree said happily, 'Now I am proud of myself. No other tree in the wood has golden leaves. I am the richest tree.'

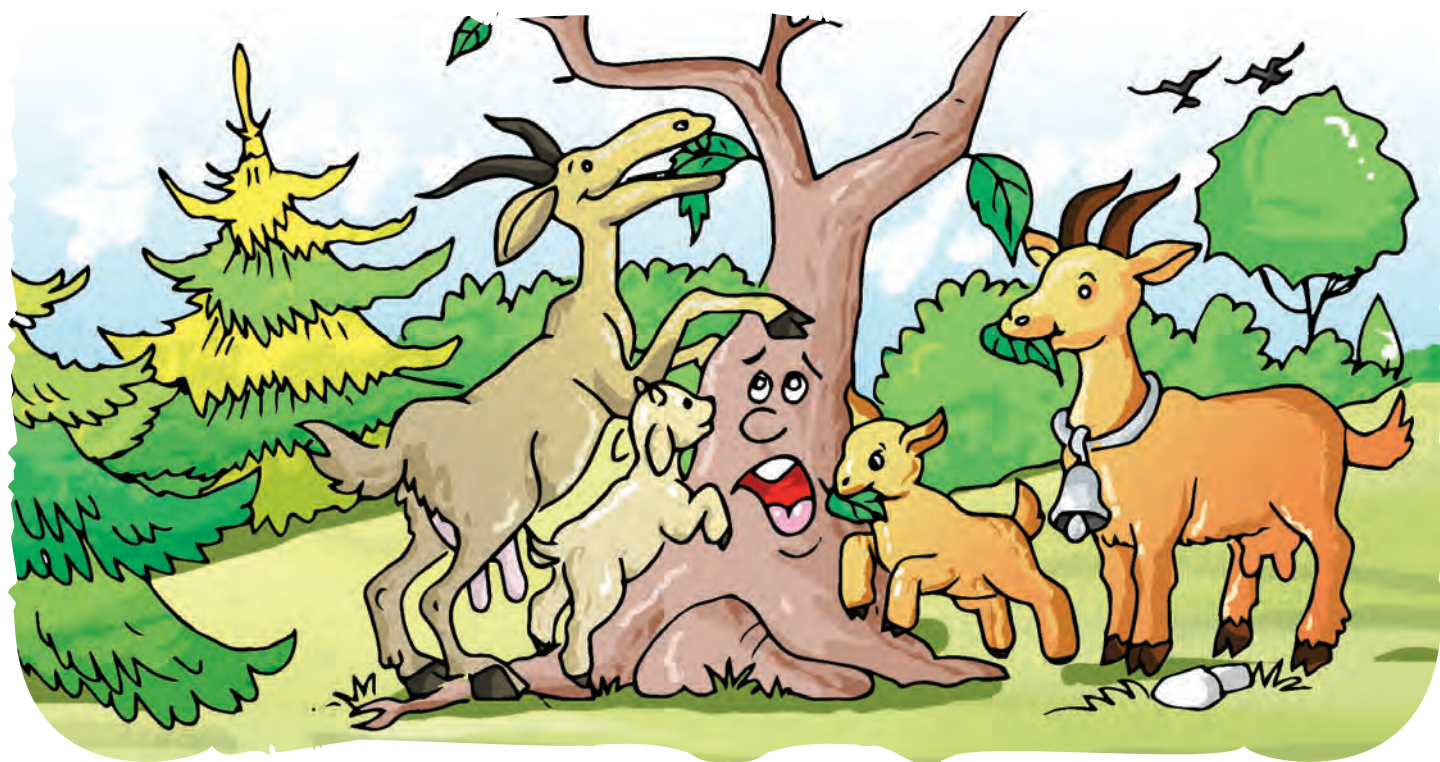
As the evening drew near, a man came walking through the woods. He was carrying an empty sack on his shoulders. He saw the tree with its **brilliant, glittering** leaves. He started plucking them one by one and put them into his sack. He left the tree leafless and quickly moved away. The poor little tree felt **grieved** and **dejected**.



‘The golden leaves have only been a trouble to me. How ashamed I shall feel before the other trees! If I could only have another wish, I would have leaves of pure glass.’

The little tree slept again, and again it woke up to another surprise. All its branches were covered with lovely glass leaves! How they danced in the sunbeam! ‘Ah!’ said the little tree, ‘Now I am happy. No tree in the woods shines as I do.’ But soon there came a great storm with a **mighty** wind. It came rushing through the forest, and when it had passed away, there lay the glass leaves **shattered** and broken upon the grass. Then the little tree said sorrowfully, ‘How my beautiful glass leaves lie in the dust! The other trees with their green leaves stand unharmed. If I could still wish, I would have only green leaves.’

Again the tree slept, and in the morning it was clothed in green. The little tree laughed aloud and said, ‘Now, I have leaves like others and have no cause for shame.’ Before it completed its words, there came an old goat with its kids, looking for food. They saw the little tree with soft new green leaves and within a little time **stripped** it of all its leaves. Once more the poor little tree stood, sad and unhappy with its **naked** branches. It said, ‘I will wish for no more leaves, neither green, nor yellow nor red. If I could have my needle-like leaves back, I would never complain.’



**Sorrowfully** the little tree went to sleep and sorrowfully it woke up. Then it saw itself in the bright sunshine. It laughed and laughed and all the trees laughed with it, for in one night, it had got back all its needle-like leaves. Now at last, it was happy and **contented**. It no longer wished foolishly.

## Word-Web

- **discontented** : not satisfied
- **complaining** : unhappy, unsatisfied
- **clad** : clothed
- **splendid** : very impressive
- **grieved** : sad and unhappy
- **glittering** : shining with a sparkling light
- **mighty** : possessing great power and strength
- **stripped** : removed
- **sorrowfully** : full of grief
- **midst** : in the middle of
- **pricking** : sharp-edged and thorny
- **awaking** : after rising from sleep
- **appearance** : the way something looks
- **brilliant** : very bright
- **dejected** : disappointed, unhappy
- **shattered** : broken violently into pieces
- **naked** : without its usual covering
- **contented** : satisfied and happy



## Comprehension

### Multi-Menu

Multiple Choice Questions

#### A. Tick the correct answers.

1. The little tree stood in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the forest.  
(a) corner  (b) midst  (c) centre
2. Its needle-like leaves pricked the \_\_\_\_\_ if anyone came to it.  
(a) fingers  (b) feet  (c) hands
3. On getting up in the morning, the tree found that it had glittering \_\_\_\_\_ leaves.  
(a) copper  (b) silver  (c) gold
4. How \_\_\_\_\_ I shall feel before the other trees!  
(a) happy  (b) ashamed  (c) contented
5. A storm with a \_\_\_\_\_ wind broke the glass leaves.  
(a) noisy  (b) mighty  (c) weak

### Pick and Fill

#### B. Fill in the blanks with correct words from the box.

soft      sharp      danced      unhappy      brilliant

1. The tree had \_\_\_\_\_ needle-like leaves.
2. The man saw the tree with its \_\_\_\_\_, glittering leaves.
3. Once more the poor little tree stood, sad and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The glass leaves \_\_\_\_\_ in the sunlight.
5. The little tree wished for \_\_\_\_\_ green leaves.

**C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements.**

1. Everyone came to the little tree and loved its pricking leaves.
2. The little tree thought itself to be the richest tree.
3. When the man plucked its golden leaves, the tree felt very happy.
4. An old goat came with its kids and praised the tree for its soft leaves.
5. Finally, the tree was contented with its needle-like leaves.

» **Matching-Mania**

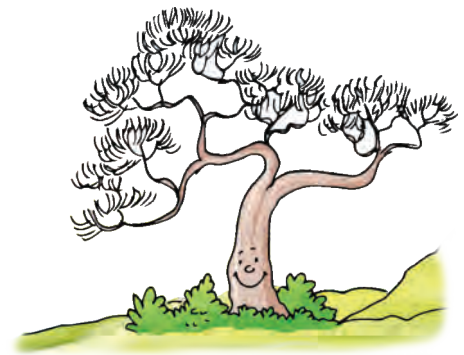
**D. Match the describing words in Column A with correct nouns in Column B.**

**Column A**

1. beautiful •
2. splendid •
3. naked •
4. bright •
5. complaining •

**Column B**

- (a) sunshine
- (b) manner
- (c) leaves
- (d) appearance
- (e) branches



» **Question-Queue (Short)**

**E. Answer each question in a few words or a sentence.**

1. Where did the little tree stand?
2. Whose fingers did the needle-like leaves prick?
3. What kind of leaves did the tree wish instead of needle-like leaves?
4. What was it that destroyed the glass leaves?
5. How did the tree feel after he had got its needle-like leaves?

» **Question-Queue (Long)**

**F. Answer each question in one or two sentences.**

1. Why was the tree not happy with its sharp needle-like leaves?
2. Who come walking through the woods and what did he do?
3. What happened to the glass leaves of the little tree?
4. What happened to the soft green leaves of the tree? How did the tree feel?
5. Why was the tree happy and contented at last?



## Vocabulary

▶ Read the following words that appear in this lesson :

happily      quickly      sorrowfully      foolishly

All these words end with **-ly**, and they tell us about the manner of an action. Such words are called 'adverbs'.

Adverbs are those words that describe a verb, an adjective or another adverb. Read the following example :

The little tree said **happily**.

We can identify an adverb of manner by asking a question with 'How'.

How did the little tree say?      Answer- happily.

In the above sentence, the adverb- **happily** describes the verb 'said'.

Now add **-ly** to the words given in the box and fill them correctly in the following sentences.

bright      quick      sudden      slow      proud      beautiful      happy      complete

1. The old woman walked \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Priya painted the picture \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A lion came \_\_\_\_\_ in front of me.
4. The little tree said \_\_\_\_\_ that it was the richest tree.
5. The glass leaves of the tree were shattered \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The golden leaves of the tree shone \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The children returned \_\_\_\_\_ after seeing the film.
8. The man picked the golden leaves and \_\_\_\_\_ moved away.



### Think-n-Thrive

- Why was the little tree not happy with its needle-like leaves? Why did it wish for different types of leaves again and again?
- How can you be contented with what you have?



## Grammar-Grip

▶ Parts of a Sentence

A sentence has two parts : **Subject** and **Predicate**

**Subject** : A person, animal or thing that performs the action denoted by the verb is called the **subject**.

**Predicate** : Except the subject, the rest part of a sentence is called **predicate**.

Look at the following examples and observe the subject in colour, and the predicate which has been underlined.

1. **The tree** wished for golden leaves.
2. **The girl** played with a doll.
3. **Children** love to play games.
4. **Birds** have wings to fly.

**A. Complete the following sentences by filling in suitable subjects.**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ are playing in the ground.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ came walking through the woods.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ make nests to lay their eggs.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ has a pouch on its body to keep its baby safe.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ go to the temple to worship.
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a gathering of cows and buffaloes.

**B. Fill in each blank with a suitable predicate.**

1. Birds \_\_\_\_\_ and they \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky.
2. My grandmother \_\_\_\_\_ in the night.
3. A chemist \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The man \_\_\_\_\_ shoulders.
5. A little tree \_\_\_\_\_ forest.
6. A fisherman \_\_\_\_\_ in the sea.

**▶ Reading Skills**

**Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

Penguins love diving into water to bathe and swim. Their favourite food item is 'shrimps'. Plenty of shrimps are found down in the cold sea. A penguin is afraid of diving alone. It will always dive in a crowd with other penguins. This is because of their enemy, the sea-leopard. penguins serve as meals for sea-leopards. The moment a penguin dives in, the sea-leopard (a kind of seal) catches hold of it. Then it kills the penguin and enjoys a delicious meal. Penguins are selfish also. None of them is ready to dive in first. Each pushes the other in front, over the edge to check if there is an enemy near about.

1. What do penguins love to do?
2. What is the favourite food of penguins?
3. Why do penguins always dive in crowd?
4. What is a sea-leopard? Why is it enemy to penguins?
5. How can you say that penguins are selfish?

**▶ Fun to write**

You are Sundar/Suman, living at 51 Civil Lines, Roorkee, Uttarakhand. Your brother is getting married on 22 November. Write a letter of invitation to your friend informing him/her about the date, time, venue of the marriage, and requesting him/her to attend the wedding. Also ask him/her to bring her family along.